

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Pietras, et al.

Serial No.: 09/509,073

Confirmation No.: 5424

Filed: August 22, 2000

For: An Apparatus for Facilitating the Connection of Tubulars Using a Top Drive

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Gay, J.

Customer No.: 36,735

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited on 2 June 09 with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," mailing label No. EV335469234US addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

2 June 04
Date

William B. Patterson
William B. Patterson

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 25, 2004

In response to the Final Office Action dated February 25, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 25, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0012.Y1/WBP for excess claims and any other fees required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office. A Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for One-Month Extension of Time are submitted herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

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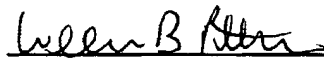
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for at least the same reasons as claims 45 and 26 are allowable, as stated above. Applicant thus respectfully requests allowance of claims 51-58.

Claims 42 and 44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claim 42 in substantially the same form as new claim 49 and rewritten claim 44 in substantially the same form as new claim 50. Applicant therefore requests allowance of new claims 49-50.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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